

REMARKS

Claims 7-13 remain pending in the present application. Claims 9-12 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 7, 8 and 13 stand rejected. Claims 7 and 13 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) alleging them to be anticipated by the Toda et al. reference (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0072511).

The Toda et al. reference cited by the Examiner fails to illustrate a chamfered surface cut and recut that is positioned between the end surface and the outer circumferential surface of the back side of the inner ring. The Toda et al. reference fails to illustrate any type of chamfered surface in this area. Further, the chamfered surface being cut and recut changes the structure of the inner ring. Accordingly, Applicants believes this imparts a distinctive structural characteristic to the final product. See, In re Garnero, 412 F.2d 276, 279, 162 USPQ 221, 223 CCPA (1979). Thus, the Toda et al. reference cited by the Examiner fails to illustrate Applicants' claims.

Thus, Applicants believe Claims 7, 8 and 13 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Miyazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,280,096).

Claims 7 and 13 have been amended. The Miyazaki et al. reference, like Toda et al., does not illustrate the cut and recut surface positioned between the end face and

the outer circumferential surface of the back side of the inner ring. As mentioned above, it is believed that this provides a distinctive structural characteristic to the final product.

Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 7 and 13 to be patentably distinct over the Miyazaki et al. reference.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Toda et al. in view of Nonaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,840,722).

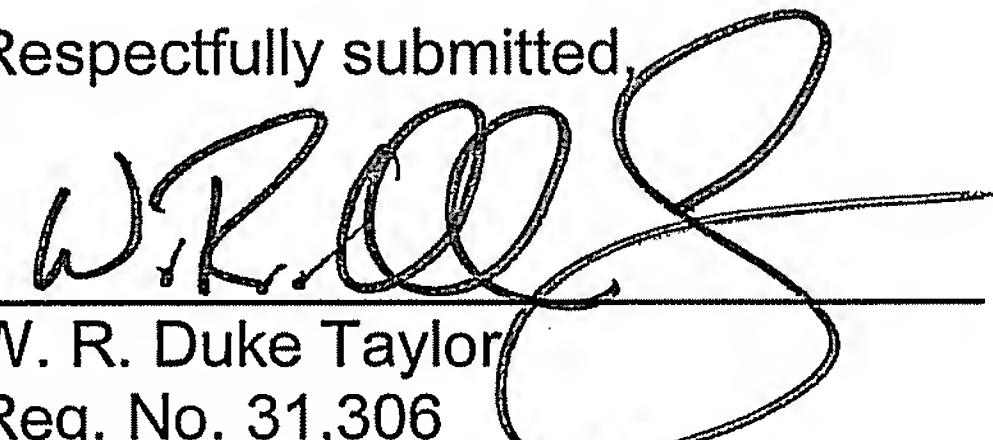
As mentioned above, the Toda et al. reference fails to illustrate Applicants' claims. The combination of Nonaka fails to overcome the deficiencies of Toda et al. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 7 and 13 to be patentably distinct over the Examiner's combination.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. in view of Nonaka.

As mentioned above, the Miyazaki et al. reference fails to illustrate Applicants' claims. The combination of Nonaka fails to overcome the deficiencies of Miyazaki et al. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 7, 8 and 13 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the

Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,
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